VICH Biological Quality Monitoring WG
Topic: Moisture Testing
Draft Minutes/Action Plan - December 14-15, 1999, Brussels, Belgium

The following summary of issues on the Moisture Testing Draft Guideline, V1.0 were presented:

1. Is it acceptable to limit to one method for a physical assay?
   - multiple acceptable assay as per EUP/USP?
   - gravimetric is standard assay for government labs, manufacturers method must be standardized against this assay
2. Are there variations of the gravimetric assay that are acceptable?
   - time, vacuum, temperature
   - automated gravimetric systems
   - environmental conditions
3. How to standardize and validate procedure(s)?
   - use of standard reference
   - comparison of existing assays

After discussion, it was agreed to insert the following statement in the guideline introduction:

> This document provides a guideline on the general requirements for residual moisture testing. The guideline leaves the flexibility for other test methods based on the specific scientific situations or characteristics of the target material. These variations must be stated in the manufacturers production method and include equivalence data. It is recognized that the limits for the alternative equivalent assay may be different from the gravimetric assay.

In addition it was agree that the residual moisture test should confirm that the moisture level is consistently within the manufacturer's specification. This statement will also be added to the proposed guideline.

It was agreed that vacuum measurements would be reflected as Pascals (1 mm Hg=0.133 kPa) .

Drying time for weighing bottles was revised to a minimum of 30 minutes, and for the test sample to 3 hours. These changes and some other minor corrections are reflected in the new guideline (v2.1).

It was agreed a two phase testing program should be conducted prior to the next WG meeting, at which time the Residual Moisture Guideline can be finalized.

Phase one would include the testing of two lactose stabilized mock vaccines, one prepared in as a single dose vial, and one as a multi-dose container. These tests should be run in triplicate in all three regions by government and at least one industry representative, using both the guideline assay and the current regional assay. Observer WG members would also be asked to participate. Results of these tests will be assembled and analyzed for consistency between regions.

Phase two would involve the evaluation of a minimum of 5 regional products, in duplicate using both the current regional assay and the guideline assay. These data will demonstrate the utility of

the guideline assay for a variety of products, and provide preliminary date on the consistency of the assay over a variety of products.

Data for these two studies will be used to suggest the scope of future equivalence and validation studies. Hans Draayer will prepare a study outline before December 3, 1999.

The following timeline was agreed to:

4. Circulate minutes, final guideline draft and experimental designs - December 3
5. Finalize experimental design - Dec 17
6. Complete experimental studies - May 31
7. Data compilation/evaluation - July 3
8. Final guidelines – following mid-July WG meeting